

## **NEWS RELEASE**

## NELSON P. COHEN UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF ALASKA

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## MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT TO A CHARGE OF DISTRIBUTION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced that on November 26, 2007, Bjorn Esserre Elliott, a resident of Anchorage, Alaska, pleaded guilty in federal court to a charge of distribution of controlled substances.

Elliott, age 26, pleaded guilty to distributing cocaine base, or "crack," before United States District Court Judge Timothy M. Burgess. Derek Lamont Elliott is also named as a defendant in the indictment, and he entered a guilty plea to a similar charge on October 31, 2007.

In connection with the guilty plea, Special Assistant United States Attorney Erin White advised the court that on three separate occasions the defendant sold crack cocaine to a government informant. The total amount of crack distributed by the defendant was 20.6 grams.

Judge Burgess announced that sentencing will take place on February 22, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. The law provides for a mandatory minimum of 5 years in prison, a maximum of 40 years in prison, and a fine of up to \$2 million. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed is based upon the seriousness of the offense and the criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

Elliott continues to remain in custody pending sentencing.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation Safe Streets Task Force, comprised of Anchorage police officers and FBI agents, conducted the investigation leading to the conviction in this case. SAUSA White is one of two prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney's Office who are funded by the Municipality of Anchorage for the purpose of prosecuting gang-related and violent crime cases.

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